

GERMANY OPENS WAR OFF AMERICAN SHORE AS SUBMARINE FIRES UPON U. S. WAR CRAFT

REPUBLICANS' SUPPORT SOUGHT BY WILSON TO PASS DRAFT BILL; FEARS RESORT TO COMPROMISE

Minority Leader Mann and Lenroot Called Into Conference, After Caucus Pledges for Conscription to Raise an Effective Army for Conflict

DEMAND WAR EFFICIENCY

CONGRESS is quibbling. The House Committee on Military Affairs appears to stand ten to nine against selective conscription. In this crisis there is grave danger that the most disastrous of Great Britain's blunders at the beginning of the war will be repeated in this country.

MAY FORCE VOLUNTEER TEST BEFORE DRAFTING

WASHINGTON, April 17.—In an effort to bring about bipartisan support of the Administration conscription bill, President Wilson today asked Representative Mann, Republican floor leader of the House, and Representative Lenroot to confer with him at the White House.

HIT FOR TAT CAPTURES HAVRE DE GRACE SPRINT

Machines Pay \$16.50 for Win in Four-Furlong Dash—Sunny Hill Second

RUM LOBBY ENDS SUFFRAGE HOPES

Slickly Checkmates Chance of Favorable Reconsideration of Amendment

WHAT MAY HAPPEN IN BASEBALL TODAY

Table listing baseball games and results for various leagues including American League, National League, and others.

Attack Off Atlantic Coast Immediately Radiographed to Scout Cruiser Chester, Flagship of First Naval District. First Shot of War

Torpedo Crosses Bow of Destroyer But Fails to Score a Hit by Distance of Thirty Yards—Wake Plainly Seen

BOSTON, April 17. Germany has brought the war to the very doors of the United States.

The first shot at an American war vessel in the conflict between the United States and Germany was fired early today when a German submarine attacked the American torpedo boat destroyer Smith off the Atlantic coast.

The torpedo boat destroyer today reported being fired upon by a German submarine in American waters. The torpedo missed the United States ship by about thirty yards. Immediately after firing the U-boat submerged and was not seen again.

The report was received at the Charlestown Navy Yard via Fire Island at 4:12 this morning. The attack took place shortly after midnight.

The Smith reported immediately to the scout cruiser Chester, the flagship of the first naval district, stationed at Boston. The naval attack was where steamships going or coming from New York would pass.

The Smith is one of a fleet of destroyers that have been patrolling the sea off the United States coast. As soon as she was attacked a radiogram was flashed to the cruiser Chester.

Official word made it emphatic that the torpedo, fired across the bow, was sighted by the men on the Smith as it plowed toward the Smith and missed by 30 yards.

ENEMY U-BOAT QUICKLY DIVES

The enemy U-boat is then reported to have speedily disappeared. It is thought that she owes her escape to the darkness, her almost submerged lines offering a faint and elusive target for the cruiser.

The radiogram received at Charlestown follows:

FIRE ISLAND, N. Y., April 17, 3:25 a. m. Chester, naval station, Boston, naval station, New York. Apparently sighted enemy submarine. Fired torpedo, missed U. S. S. Smith 30 yards. Wake plainly seen crossing bow. Submarine disappeared.

U. S. S. SMITH. At the request of the United States Navy Department the latitude and longitude in which the U. S. S. Smith was attacked by a submarine is omitted from the foregoing dispatch.

WARSHIPS SEARCH FOR SUBMARINE; NAVY CONFIDENT OF BAGGING PRIZE

WASHINGTON, April 17. The first shot at an American war craft has been fired by Germany—and it missed.

An enemy submarine, braving the perils of the Atlantic, attacked the United States torpedo boat destroyer Smith, firing a torpedo across her bows. It cleared the ship by thirty yards.

The submarine then disappeared. All efforts to locate her have thus far failed.

Official confirmation of the first clash of the war was received by the

"JOE" BUSH VICTIM OF MATES' ERRORS

Mack's Star Pitcher Loses 3-1 Game to Red Sox After Hard Fight Against Luck

Table showing baseball game results for Joe Bush's team against the Red Sox.

PHILS SCORE 5 RUNS ON TWO LITTLE HITS

Three Errors and Several Passes Give Lavender Lead Over Boston in His First Start for Pat

Table showing baseball game results for the Philadelphia Phillies.

BASEBALL SCORES

Table listing baseball scores for Boston Athletics, Phillies, and Boston.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Table listing American League scores for Washington, New York, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, and St. Louis.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Table listing National League scores for New York and Brooklyn.

OTHER GAMES

Table listing scores for other games including Haverford School, Princeton Prep, Haddon Heights, Penn Charter, Central High, and W. Phila. High.

FRANCO-BRITISH SMASH GERMAN LINE IN FRANCE

English Push Closer to Cambrai-St. Quentin Road

AIM AT LIFELINE OF Foe's DEFENSES

Key Positions of Hindenburg Line Now Seem Doomed

5,000,000 MEN ENGAGED

Nivelle Breaks German Counter-Assaults and Prepares New Blow

BERLIN, April 17.

French troops suffered heavily in unavailing attempts to break through the German lines yesterday, today's official statement asserted. More than 2100 French troops were captured. The attackers' losses in killed and wounded were very heavy.

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES AFIELD, April 17.

France's brilliant part in the great offensive stimulated British forces to redoubled energy today. General Haig's forces continue their advance. Outposts and patrols pushed steadily forward to the east. Two more field guns were captured in Hirondele wood. Meanwhile desperate work of destruction by the Germans continues in Lens—now fast doomed by the British encircling movement. Today the Teutons dammed the Souchez River, backing up the water into Lens. Great explosions marked the destruction of mine shaft machinery, and British observers—plainly able to see the enemy at work—declared there was reason to believe it was part of the German plan of destruction at the last moment to divert the flood waters of the Souchez into the great underground galleries of France's richest coal mines.

Five million men are engaged on the western front in the greatest battle of all time.

Violent fighting is in progress all along the line from the Aisne to the Alps. British and French armies under Field Marshal Haig and General Nivelle are engaged in the most gigantic offensive of the war. The Germans are being hurled back foot by foot toward their own borders despite their desperate resistance.

Field Marshal Haig again swung the center of his pressure away from Lens today, his army plunging with good success against the German defenses on the Cambrai-St. Quentin line south of Arras. The Tombois farm, near Epheux, was captured from the Germans, the British War Office announced today.

Along the Aisne-Rheims front, where the French have driven forward, there is furious fighting, with the Germans delivering fruitless counter-assaults and bombarding the new positions held by General Nivelle. Nivelle is today consolidating his new defenses, preparatory to another assault.

The British are now only two miles from the Arras-Cambrai road, the main line of communication of the Germans. Should they succeed in cutting this highway they will force the abandonment by the Teutons of the entire "Hindenburg line."

The Italians are evidently preparing for an offensive on the Isonzo. A violent artillery duel is in progress on that front.

BRITISH TROOPS PRESS CLOSER TO LE CATELET

LONDON, April 17. The greatest battle of the greatest war continues with unabated fury along a 100-mile front in France and 5,000,000 men are engaged in the struggle.

Field Marshal Haig, today jammed the British force a mile closer to Le Cateau and the main line of German communications between Cambrai and St. Quentin. "In the neighborhood of Epheux we

THE WEATHER

Forecast for Philadelphia and vicinity: light and probably warm; clouds rising tomorrow; showers.

U. S. NAVY FLASHES WARNINGS TO SHIPPING OF U-BOAT MENACE

WASHINGTON, April 17.—The Navy Department late this afternoon flashed out warnings to all shipping, advising of the presence of a hostile submarine off the Atlantic coast. The warning was sent broadcast as a result of the clash of the United States Ship Smith with a submarine off Fire Island early today. All shipping has been advised of the danger of putting out to sea at this time.

PREPARES BILL FOR U. S. CONTROL OF FOODS

WASHINGTON, April 17.—Secretary of Agriculture Houston said late this afternoon he was preparing a report to Congress urging necessity for legislation empowering Government regulation of food prices. Houston said the Government would not immediately apply any such law, if it were enacted, but that he thought "such legislation necessary for immediate use in any emergency."

ODESSA ARISTOCRATS UNDER ARREST

PETROGRAD, April 17.—Odessa dispatches today reported the arrest of many members of the aristocracy there, charged with opposing the revolution and the regulations of the new Government.

HOUSE DEFEATS BILL TO ABOLISH DEATH PENALTY

HARRISBURG, April 17.—The House of Representatives, after a two-hour debate, this afternoon defeated the Tomkins-Wells-Hess bill to abolish capital punishment in Pennsylvania. The vote was 83 to 97. The measure had passed the Senate and was on final passage.

PENNSYLVANIA CRUDE OIL AT TOP PRICE

PITTSBURGH, Pa., April 17.—The price of Pennsylvania crude oil has been advanced to \$2.10, the highest point in several months. A recent black advance of 2 cents to \$2.05, Corning is up 2 cents to \$2.40, Cabell advanced 2 cents to \$2.37 and Somerset advanced 2 cents to \$2.20. Ruigland is unchanged. A price of \$2.50 is predicted for Pennsylvania crude oil this winter.

NEW YORK, April 17.—The Texas Company has advanced the price of gasoline 1 cent a gallon in the State of Texas. This advance is the highest since the price of gasoline was raised in 1916.